IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled):

15. (Currently amended): A method of collecting substances comprising

positioning liquid containing substances in the vicinity of a first electrode having a vacant space therein and a second electrode, said vacant space substantially surrounded by said first electrode such that the periphery of the vacant space is not defined in part or at all by the second electrode,

subjecting said liquid containing substances to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force generated by application of voltage to said first electrode, and

collecting said substances subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force in the vicinity of said vacant space of said first electrode.

16. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 15 wherein said first electrode is on a substrate and a lid is provided adjacent to said first electrode in such that a gap is formed between said first electrode and said lid, and said liquid containing substances subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is provided in said gap to allow the substances to contact with the first electrode.

17. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16 wherein said substance subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is a complex of a substance binding to a substance to be measured, a substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force, and the substance to be measured which binds to said substance binding to a substance to be measured.

18. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force is a granular substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force.

19. (Currently amended): A method of detecting substances comprising

positioning liquid containing substances in the vicinity of an electrode having a vacant space therein and a second electrode, said vacant space substantially surrounded by said first electrode such that the periphery of the vacant space is not defined in part or at all by the second electrode,

subjecting said liquid containing substances to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force generated by application of voltage to said first electrode,

collecting said substances subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force in the vicinity of said vacant space of said first electrode, and optically detecting said substance.

20. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein said substances subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is a complex of a substance binding to a substance to be measured, a substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force and the substance to be measured which binds to said substance binding to a substance to be measured.

21. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 20 wherein said substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force is a granular substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force.

22-28 (Cancelled):

29. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned above the vacant space of the first electrode.

30. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow about the first electrode.

31. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 30, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow above the electrode.

32. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 30, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow below the first electrode.

33. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned below the vacant space of the first electrode.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the substances are collected above the position of the vacant space.

36. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the substances are collected below the position of the vacant space.

37. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned above the vacant space of the first electrode.

38. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow about the first electrode.

39. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow above the first electrode.

40. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow below the first electrode.

41. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned below the vacant space of the first electrode.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the substances are collected above the position of the vacant space.

44. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the substances are collected below the position of the vacant space.